



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE

Wholeness and Healing

13th December 2020

The all-important aim in Christian healing is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality, but the reality in our lives which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are.

Welcome and Introduction

We worship together in the name of God
Who knows each of us by name

We worship together in the name of Christ
Whose touch brought healing for forgotten people

We worship together in the name of the Holy Spirit
Who has promised to stay with us, to sustain and restore us.

Prayers of Penitence:

Jesus said, *'Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.'*
Let us accept His invitation as we turn to him in prayer:

You know us, Lord, we do not have to pretend with you.
In the silence of your love, we bring you all the things that trouble us,
that harm us, that make us feel ashamed or afraid.

Silence

Lord, have mercy on us Christ, have mercy on us Lord, have mercy on us

God of compassion, you know us inside out, yet you love us; you know the worst in us and the best in us. May your deep love drown all our failings, may your tears wash away our sin; may your living water well up in us and renew our spirit. As we are forgiven so may we forgive others and reach out to be reconciled in your love. In the power of your Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus. Amen

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing
plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of
their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall
be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his
shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne
of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord - Thanks be to God.

Hymn

(tune: Dundee:Scottish Psalter 1615)

1.The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.

2.To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.

3. For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.

5. His righteous government and power
shall over all extend;
on judgement and on justice based,
his reign shall have no end.

4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.

6. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit One.

(John Morrison 1750-1798)

A reading from the Gospel of Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said: 'My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God,
my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One
has done great things for me and holy is his name. His mercy is for those
who fear him, from generation to generation. He as showed strength with
his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has
brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He
has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He
has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to
the promises he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants
forever.'

For the word of the Lord – Thanks be to God

Litany of Healing

Giving thanks for any healing we or others have received strengthens everyone's faith and hope:

Loving God, we give you thanks for health restored and prayers answered.
Praise to you, O Christ.

And now we turn to God in prayer for all those ongoing situations:

God of compassion and love, we offer you all our suffering and pain. Give us strength
to bear our weakness; healing even when there is no cure; peace in the midst of
turmoil and love to fill the spaces in our lives.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain and ill-health,
with their families, friends and those who care for them:

May they know the deep peace of Christ

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer in mind and spirit and
all those who care for them:

May they know the deep peace of Christ

Loving God, we hold in your presence the suffering people of the world and the
places where people are experiencing division, injustice and violence:

May they know the deep peace of Christ

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those struggling to overcome abuse or
addiction, those supporting and working with them, and all whose suffering has
distanced them from those they love:

May they know the deep peace of Christ

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those facing bereavement and we also
pray for those who have died:

May they know the deep peace of Christ

We pray for all those known to us who have asked for our prayers:

Lord, you know the needs of each one of us, our strengths and our weaknesses, our
hopes and disappointments. We commend to your loving care all those we now
name in our hearts and who have asked for our prayers. Guard them as the apple of
your eye, hide them under the shadow of your wings. Show them your merciful love,
in health or in sickness, in life or in death. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Hymn

(Jacques Berthier 1923-1994)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near;
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

(repeat 3 more times)

The Thanksgiving

Spirit of God, who dwells within people and places, help us to magnify your kindness and goodness to overcome ignorance, alienation and hostility, to be able to see each other as people created and connected in God's image. Humble us by your power that we might have the courage to come together, physically distanced but united in purpose, called by name to serve God and our neighbours. Pour your gifts upon us, so that we can fulfil your trust in us to do our part that your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Christ be our light!

Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church, gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled,
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church, gathered today.

(words & music-Bernadette Farrell)

The Blessing

May the blessing of God surround us
May angels and friends share our journey
May we be wise and strong and creative
May we celebrate life and hope
May God's image grow within us, gently, powerfully, tenderly
May we be cradled in warmth and healing
May we be held in God's wisdom and love
May the gospel of life sustain us all the days of our journey home.

Let us go out into the world in the joy and peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.